

Application Serial No. 10/524,695  
Reply to Office Action of October 18, 2007

PATENT  
Docket CU-4085

Amendments to the Abstract

A means of coupling for connecting pipes, comprising having a seal [[(2)]], flanges (3, 3'), a threaded portion [[(15)]] and a nut [[(5)]], where the end portion (1, 1') of the pipe is equipped with a concentric press surface [[(23)]] located immediately proximal to the periphery of the pipe (1, 1') and designed to be able to take an axial pressure from a preloading tool [[(25)]], which pressure is distributed evenly or point-by-point about the periphery of the pipe. A means of compressing pipe couplings, where a The preloading tool (25) comprises has two end sections (27, 31) connected to two or more rods [[(35)]], each rod [[(35)]] being equipped with a hydraulic cylinder [[(37)]].